floating streams. Nor is any such contractor allowed to trade in timber during the currency of his contract.

(3) The question does not arise, in view of the answer to parts (1) and (2).

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any near relatives of these same contractors possess depôts near the same depôt?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

Sale of Timber by Contractors at Government Depôts.

173. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) whether they do not allow sale contractors to keep and sell the timber purchased by them from Government depôts at those depôts;

(2) whether, if they do so allow, such a course does not prejudicially affect the sale of timber left unsold at such Government depôts at the time; and

(3) whether in all those cases they charge any ground-rent for permission to keep and sell such timber and whether there is any time-limit for such permission?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(1) The answer is in the negative, if by the expression 'sale contractors' the member means purchasers of timber from depôts.

(2) and (3) These questions do not arise, in view of the answer to part (1).

Mortality among Wild Elephants.

174. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) whether the Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division, has reported that mortality among wild elephants was unusually large in that Division in 1098;

(2) whether, in case such a report has been made, Government have made any enquiry as regards the mortality of wild elephants in the other divisions of the State and whether they will state the results of such enquiry, if any;

(3) whether they have received any report as to the number of wild elephants washed away by the flood that occurred during the latter part of 1098 in the Periyar, and whether, if such a report has been received, they would state the number of cow elephants and tuskers so washed away, as also whether in each case any *mahazar* was prepared by the forest authorities; and

(4) whether they will enquire whether there were any cases of shooting wild elephants by the owners or servants of the registry holders of the lands lying alongside of the High Range road?

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